



The International Fancy Guppy Association



Dedicated to Promoting The Fancy Guppy Hobby

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Strains and Their Character Traits

By Frank Orteca

HALF BLACKS

First the body must be black not navy blue. The black coloring should cover half of the body not three fourths. The demarcation line should run from the dorsal fin downward to the bottom of the fish. Be aware that the body color does not bleed past the dorsal fin or into the caudal fin. Good crosses come from crossing males of respective caudal fin color to half black females.

Examples:

Red male to a half black red female

Blue male to a half black blue female

Purple male to a half black purple female

Points to watch for when selecting breeders:

1. Body color and shape
2. Fintage color and shape
3. Size

SNAKESKINS SOLID

The fish must have a good chain link snake pattern through at least 60% of it's body. The more the better. Avoid males with Zebrinous Bars or Cobra markings in the peduncle. Caudal color must be solid with as close as a color match as you can get in the dorsal fins. The main challenge in solid snakes is to consistently match dorsal fins. There have been exceptions through the years but as of now nothing breeds 100% true solid color dorsals. The body color under the snake pattern should have the same underlying iridescent color as the caudal. You must watch the dorsal size. Fifteen years ago snake solids, as a rule, had very short dorsal fins. This could be a dominate trait so you must pay close attention when picking your breeders. For good crosses, use snakeskin males with any gray bodied female with matching caudal color.

Examples:

Purple snake skin male to a purple female

Blue snake skin male to a blue female

Green snake skin male to a green female

When picking breeders for snake skin solids keep these desirable traits in mind:

1. Large body male
2. Solid caudal fin
3. Good snake pattern
4. Dorsal fin color and size

REDS

The three most difficult and important traits in breeding for Reds are:

- 1 Color
2. Color
3. Color

Reds are at the top of the list for difficulty in keeping a good, deep, clean color in them. I have seen people get one good generation and lose the color quality in the next. Some breeders feel as I do that you must keep three lines or strains going at the same time and then figure the correct combinations to cross.


Examples:

1. Line A good clean red color
2. Line B dark/maroon color
3. Gold body line

I also felt that reds should only be crossed with another red strain. Other colors seem to set you back. I have hi-bred reds into blue females and back crossed them many times back to red. This keeps the color an intense red but you can also put a dark ban into the peduncle area. John O'Brian, from N.Y., in the early 80's ran 70 tanks of reds. No other colors were in his room. He also would not sell or trade his fish. The best tip I can give you for this strain is to do what Joe O'Brien did - load your whole room with different strains of reds and work on what lines produce the best results.

ALBINOS


Albinos are beautiful fish but they also have many problems, among these problems are size, fertility and color. You must find a gray body strain to cross to.



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Result: Always look for a 1 to 1 ratio with the males. These need to be used for breeders and crosses. The characteristics to watch for in a black to black cross are dorsal fin size and some lime green or olive green colors which may appear. Many blacks show highlights of blue or purple coloring from crosses in the past.

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Filtration

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